other tobacco sector representatives, hence Ministry has decided not to set up an Expert Committee in this Ministry.

Representation against anti-tobacco legislation by Members of Parliament

4030. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has received representations against anti-tobacco legislation from a large number of Members of Parliament voicing farmers' fears of banning of their crop of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details of such representations; and

(c) how Government propose to reassure farmers that their interest is uppermost in the policy formulation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) There are representations from Members of Parliament against the proposed legislation of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for discouraging use of Tobacco products; and requests for setting up an Expert Committee to study the impact of legislation on tobacco farmers.

(c) The proposed Tobacco legislation by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims at curbing sale|consumption of tobacco in specific public places and ban tobacco advertisement keeping in view the likely health hazards to tobacco consumers. It does not intend to ban tobacco farming.

Quantum of diesel, fertilizers and machinery for agriculture

4031. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of diesel, fertilizers and machinery inputs for agriculture in country in comparison to other countries;

(b) the restriction on import of tractors from other countries;

(c) the details of protection provided to the industrial sector in the country at the cost of farmers; and

(d) measures to rectify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The quantum of fertilizer and machinery inputs for agriculture in the country and in some of the developed and the developing countries has been given in a statement annexed. (*See* below). Information on consumption of diesel in agriculture sector is not maintained by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

(b) The import of tractors is restricted in terms of the Export nd Import Policy 1992—97.

(c) and (d) The price of diesel and fertilizers sold in the country is substantially subsidised. There is no requirement of industrial licence for manufacture of fertilizers, tractors and other agricultural machines. Supply of these items is assured and there is no protection to the industrial sector at the cost of the farmers.